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Wisbech Rural District Council

1964

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

District Council Offices
Alexandra Road,
Wisbech.

M. Doreen C. Martin,
M.B.,Ch.B.,D.C.H.

WISBECH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

The Chairman (Mr. F. Russell), the Vice-Chairman (Mr. G.F.W. Cannon) and the Full Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY:

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (Part-Time) -

M. Doreen C. Martin, M.B.,Ch.B.,D.C.H.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR -

Alan P. Grant, M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND ASSISTANT SURVEYOR -

D. O'Connor, M.A.P.H.I.

WISBECH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

For the year ending 31st December, 1964.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I present, for your consideration, the Annual Report on the Public Health of the Rural District of Wisbech for the year ending 31st December, 1964.

It is gratifying to note that in November, 1964 the Council showed it's concern over the present unsatisfactory arrangements for disposing of domestic waste water and excreta, by inviting a firm of Civil Engineers to report on possible schemes for the sewerage of the Rural District. Their findings will be reported to the Council during 1965, and then major decisions will have to be taken as regards future policy.

During the year no progress was made towards fluoridation of water supplies in the district, and indeed the County Health Committee stated that they proposed to take no action, for the present, as there was such variation of opinion in the Public Health Committees throughout the area. The British Medical Association once more confirmed it's support of fluoridation by notifying all Local Authorities of it's views.

I would like to record my gratitude to Mr. Grant and the whole staff of the Public Health Department for their help. The interest, guidance and support of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee have once more been a great encouragement to me.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District	49,841 acres.
Estimate mid-year population for 1964	12,830
Estimate mid-year population for 1963	12,750
Rateable Value 1st April, 1964	£235,632.
Rateable Value 1st April, 1963	£231,488.
Product of a Penny Rate	£931.
Number of inhabited houses	4,239.

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VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS - 240

	M.	F.	Wisbech R.D. Birth Rate (Adjusted)*	Administrative County.	England and Wales.
TOTAL:	123	117			
Legitimate	113	111	18.9	18.06	18.4
Illegitimate	10	6			

Area Comparability Factor (Births) 1.01

STILL BIRTHS - 5

	M.	F.	Wisbech R.D. Still Birth Rate **	Administrative County	England and Wales
TOTAL:	1	4			
Legitimate	1	3	20.41	15.54	16.4
Illegitimate	-	1			

DEATHS (All Causes) - 128

M.	F.	Wisbech R.D. Death Rate (Adjusted)***	Administrative County	England and Wales
64	64	10.88	10.99	11.3

Area Comparability Factor (deaths) 1.09

DEATHS - Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion - 0

DEATHS - Infants under 1 year of age -

TOTAL: 6

	M.	F.	Wisbech R.D. Infant Mortality Rate ****	Administrative County	England and Wales
Legitimate	2	4			
Illegitimate	-	-	25	18.31	20

Deaths of infants in first week of life - 5
Deaths of infants from 1 week to 4 weeks - 0
Deaths of infants from 4 weeks to 1 year - 1

* Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident mid-1964 population.
** Rate per 1,000 Births (Live and Still).
*** Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident mid-1964 population.
**** Death of infants under 1 year, per 1,000 live births.

VITAL STATISTICS (Cont'd).

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR -

Breech delivery	- 1	Hydrocephalus	- 1
Prolapsed Cord	- 1	Pneumonia	- 1
Prematurity	- 1	Pulmonary Atelectasis	- 1

DEATHS FROM CANCER (All ages) - 26

Live Birth, Still Birth, Death and Infant Mortality Rates during Past Six Years.

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
LIVE BIRTH RATE :						
Wisbech R.D.	15.3	16.99	16.2	17.4	16.71	18.9
Isle of Ely	15.76	16.84	16.94	16.49	16.58	18.06
England & Wales	16.5	17.1	17.4	18.0	18.2	18.4
STILL BIRTH RATE :						
Wisbech R.D.	15.3	4.62	14.5	4.5	27.65	20.41
Isle of Ely	25.9	29.34	17.78	13.51	19.0	15.54
England & Wales	20.7	19.7	19.1	18.1	17.2	16.4
DEATH RATE :						
Wisbech R.D.	11.1	9.39	8.7	10.4	11.8	10.88
Isle of Ely	11.53	10.82	10.89	11.39	11.68	10.99
England & Wales	11.6	11.5	12.0	11.9	12.2	11.3
INFANT MORTALITY RATE :						
Wisbech R.D.	41.5	37.21	9.8	18.1	14.22	25
Isle of Ely	25.19	29.55	14.73	37.0	22.8	18.31
England & Wales	22.2	21.7	21.6	20.7	21.1	20

GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

le of Ely Executive Council - Bank House, West End, March.

erk - A. R. Marsh, Esq.

st Anglian Regional Hospital Board - 117, Chesterton Road, Cambridge.

nior Administrative Medical Officer - Dr. J. B. Ewen.

(a) GENERAL -

(1) North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech.
(2) Clarkson Hospital, Wisbech.
(3) Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
(4) Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.
(5) Doddington Hospital, Doddington.

(b) MATERNITY -

Bowthorpe Maternity Home, Wisbech.

All primiparous mothers may be confined in hospital and other mothers may be admitted for obstetric abnormality. A few mothers are admitted for very difficult social circumstances.

(c) INFECTIOUS DISEASES -

Isolation Hospital, Peterborough.
Hardwick Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.

(d) TUBERCULOSIS -

The area chest physician holds a weekly clinic at North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech.

In-patient accommodation is provided through the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

(e) MENTAL ILLNESS -

Accommodation is provided (through the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board) usually in Fulbourne Hospital. This is arranged directly by the local General Practitioners.

(f) VENERAL DISEASE -

(1) Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.
(2) Peterborough Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
(3) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

(g) MEDICAL EQUIPMENT SERVICE -

Medical equipment is provided on loan by the St. Johns Ambulance Division and the Red Cross Medical Loan Depot by arrangement with the County Council.

COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES.

(A) Midwifery, General Sick and Public Health Nursing -

The Nursing Staff is employed by the Isle of Ely County Council either directly or by arrangement with the County Nursing Association under the National Health Service Act, 19[illegible].

In the parishes given, all those undertaking midwifery and general nursing are qualified to administer gas/air analgesia and pethadine, and the necessary number of gas/air machines are available for their use.

ELM, UPWELL AND OUTWELL :

Miss A. Heney, Halfpenny Lane, ELM. (Wisbech 1806).	Q.N. S.R.N. S.C.M. H.V.	Midwife; General Nursing; Public Health Nursing; School Nurse; Health Visitor for Elm.
Miss R. Ward, County Hall MARCH.	S.R.N. S.C.M. H.V.	Health Visitor for Upwell, Outwell and Parson Drove.

WISBECH ST. MARY AND PARSON DROVE :

Miss B.M. Robinson, Nurses House, Church Road, WISBECH ST. MARY. (Wisbech St. Mary 249).	Q.N. S.C.M.	General Nursing and Midwife.
Miss M.E. Joynt, New Clinic, Horsefair, WISBECH.	Q.N. S.R.N. S.C.M. H.V.	Health Visitor for Wisbech St. Mary.

LEVERINGTON, NEWTON AND TYDD ST. GILES :

Miss E.M. Burdett, High Road, GOREFIELD. (Newton 274).	Q.N. S.C.M.	Midwife and General Nursing.
Mrs. Gray, New Clinic, Horsefair, WISBECH.	S.R.N. S.C.M. H.V.	Health Visitor.

B) Ambulance and Hospital Car Service -

There are three ambulances garaged at Wisbech Motors Ltd., Norwich Road, Wisbech.

C) Infant Welfare Centres -

Christchurch (Parish Hall)	4th Monday.
Guyhirn (Village Hall)	3rd Thursday.
Parson Drove (Church Hall)	1st Wednesday.
Leverington (Church Hall)	2nd Tuesday.
Fridaybridge (Church Hall)	4th Wednesday.
Wisbech St. Mary (Women's Institute)	2nd Thursday.
Newton (Women's Institute)	1st Thursday.

D) School Minor Ailment Clinics -

County Clinics, Horsefair, Wisbech.
Beaupre School, Outwell.

E) Home Help Service -

Available for confinements, cases of illness and for social reasons in the aged.

LABORATORY SERVICES.

Public Health Laboratory Service,
Peterborough and District Memorial Hospital,
Midland Road,
Peterborough.
(Director: Dr. J. Glencross).

Public Health Laboratory Service,
Tennis Court Road,
Cambridge.
(Director: Dr. Fry).

Public Analyst,
The Laboratory,
Tenison Road,
Cambridge.
(S. Greenburgh P.H.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.).

OTHER SERVICES.

Health Education -

All primiparous women are given the opportunity of attending relaxation and Mother and Baby care classes during their pregnancy. Recognised Women's Meetings e.g. Church groups and Women's Rural Institute Meetings, occasionally ask for a speaker on Health Education, and such requests are readily complied with by the Publi Health Department.

Personal Cleanliness -

There is a bath-house available at the Borough Public Health Department. This year it was not necessary to make use of this service.

Disinfection and Disinfestation -

Premises - By the Senior Public Health Inspector's Staff.

Bedding and Clothing - Which cannot be dealt with by this departmen are sent to Peterborough Isolation Hospital.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1964.

	Notifications:
Dysentery	3
Typhoid Fever	0
Paratyphoid Fever	0
Meningococcal Infections	0
Scarlet Fever	5
Whooping Cough	20
Diphtheria	0
Erysipelas	0
Smallpox	0
Measles	36
Pneumonia	0
Acute Poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)	
Paralytic	0
Non-Paralytic	0
Food poisoning	1
Puerperal pyrexia	0
Tuberculosis (All forms)	1
Malaria	0
Infective jaundice	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0

CAUSES OF DEATH - 1964.

	M.	F.	TOTA
Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	0	0
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	0	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	1	7
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	8	14
Leukeamia, aleukeamia	1	0	1
Diabetes	0	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	12	17
Coronary diseases, angina	13	5	18
Hypertension with heart disease	2	0	2
Other heart disease	7	11	18
Other circulatory disease	2	1	3
Influenza	0	0	0
Pneumonia	1	3	4
Bronchitis	9	2	11
Other diseases of the respiratory system	0	0	0
Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum	0	1	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	0	0
Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
Congenital malformations	1	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	13	19
Motor Vehicle accidents	3	0	3
All other accidents	0	2	2
Suicide	0	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0
Total :	64	64	128

Deaths from selected causes during the years 1960 to 1964.

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964.
Lung Cancer	3	2	7	7	7
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	2	3	3
All other Accidents	2	1	1	7	2
Suicide	1	1	0	3	1

I draw your attention to these causes of death as being essentially preventable. The number of deaths from lung cancer, of course, gives no indication of the number of cases diagnosed and successfully treated.

AGE AT DEATH	55 - 65 years	65 - 75 years
Lung Cancer	4	3

There were 4 deaths occuring in people between 1 year and 35 years and of those 3 were motor vehicle accidents.

CAUSES OF OTHER ACCIDENTS :

Fracture of femur	Female - 95 years.
Accidental barbiturate poisoning	Female - 53 years.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

HOUSING.

I am indebted to the Senior Public Health Inspector for the following reports.

Number of Dwellings completed during 1964 -

Council Bungalows	-	14	Private	-	66
Council Houses	-	6			
		20			

Number of Dwellings under construction at the end of 1964 -

Council Bungalows	-	23	Private	-	55
Council Houses	-	29			
		52			

UNFIT HOUSES -

There are approximately 194 sub-standard houses in the district, but it must be appreciated that this figure is based upon a survey made some considerable time ago and although many houses have been improved and modernised some have deteriorated in condition, especially those near the border line at the time of the survey. The following number of unfit houses were dealt with during the year as follows.

	Demolition Orders	Closing Orders	Demolished in Anticipation.
Elm	2	-	1
Leverington	1	-	-
Outwell	3	2	-
Parson Drove	1	3	-
Tydd St. Giles	-	-	1
Upwell	2	4	1
Wisbech St. Mary	3	3	-
	12	12	3

RENT ACT, 1957 -

During the year there were no applications for Certificates of Disrepair, and no applications for the revokation of Certificates Disrepair by owners of property.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS -

Applications for grants for improvement of private dwellings h been dealt with jointly by the Public Health and Architect's Departments as in previous years. During the year Discretionary Grants were approved for 14 houses to a total of £4,697. Standar Grants were approved for 27 houses to a total of £3,198.

The figures of properties improved show a significant rise and one must assume that the advertising and propaganda issued in res of improvements to houses is making an appreciable impact on the public.

BUILDING BYELAWS -

The examination of all plans submitted under the Building Byelaws, the preparation of reports to the Planning Committee and subsequent inspection of work in progress, is carried out by the Public Health Department. During the year 220 plans were dealt w It is stressed again that a great deal of the department's time i increasingly taken up with the administration of the building bye as we are continually being called upon for advice both under the byelaw and planning aspect of our work.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING AND COUNCIL'S SEWAGE DISPOSAL PLANTS -

During the year emptying operations were carried out by the us of two vehicles, a Thames Trader emptier with a capacity of 1,000 gallons and a Dennis cesspool emptier with a 750 gallons capacity Each vehicle is crewed by two men. The work done by the two vehi consisted of the emptying of 1,995 domestic privies and cesspools producing 2,167 loads, 253 loads of sludge were removed from the Council's sewage disposal plants on 17 housing estates.

The figures given show how the work has increased and will continue to increase with every new dwelling both private and Cou built. The Dennis disposal vehicle although efficient is old, in fact, over 12 years and it is time for an additional disposal veh of 1,000 gallOns to be taken on the Council's vehicle strength. is further suggested that the Dennis be retained for use solely o the Council's sewage disposal plants. Much work has been done in conjunction with the Housing Department and Pollution Officer of Drainage Board to improve the standard of effluents discharged fr existing disposal plants and I am glad to report that a steady improvement in standard has been observed.

The contents of the vehicles is taken on to land either stubble or straw pan for which the recipient is paid a half crown per load. This incentive has not greatly increased our means of disposal and I have to thank the Council for the interest shown in furthering other possible means of disposal and also those members of the farming community who have regularly taken the contents of our cesspool emptiers when such service was most urgently needed.

Further steps have been taken by the Council in their desire to sewer certain parts of the rural district. Such work being necessary for the efficeint disposal of sewage which must result from the increasing growth of the district together with improvements also being carried out in the area.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL -

A fortnightly collection of refuse is carried out over almost the whole of the district, together with a twice weekly collection for about seven months of the year from the Agricultural Camp at Friadaybridge. The service is operated by one vehicle, a Shelvoke and Drewry fore and aft. tipper type, crewed by two men, both loader/drivers. Towards the end of the year initial steps were taken by the Council to acquire a further vehicle, and it is hoped that in the event of a choice being made a vehicle of the compression type with a very large cubic capacity will be chosen. This will cut down appreciably the running time of the vehicle from collection to disposal point. During the year approximately 2,470 tons of refuse were collected and tipped.

Disposal of refuse is carried out in the Wisbech Canal and this Council shares disposal facilities with the Marshland Rural District and the Borough of Wisbech. Progress here has been satisfactory. A R.B. excavator has now been acquired which carries out all digging and dumping of soil operations, a function previously carried out with the backhoe of a John Deere Lanz tracked bulldozer. The excavation is back filled with refuse and then covered with the excavated soil. Local firms make full use of the canal for the tipping of their trade refuse and co-operation from these firms is good. By reason of being an essentially agricultural area most of the waste dumped derives from food processing plant, especially vegetable waste. It is good to be able to record the mutual benefit derived by the three Councils involved in the scheme and the great measure of co-operation reached between the three Councils. We were fortunate during the year not to be embarrassed by having derelict cars dumped in the district in any numbers. Parts of car bodies have been dumped into the Canal but this is a problem which is bound to get bigger. Appeals to prospective dumpers on civic pride grounds will bear little fruit. It is obvious that this matter will have to be dealt with at County level.

Increases in the collection area were made and coupled with a undoubted increase in weight and volume made refuse collection a mo hectic business than ever. A salvage system is in operation and all types of materials are salvaged and sold through a local fir The revenue for the year was £253, after deduction of the collectors' bonuses.

FOOD -

There was no change in regard to food premises generally, premises registered for the sale of ice cream and those used in connection with the sale of milk.

All food premises in the district were inspected and occupier were requested to give attention to contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Two new premises were registered for the sale of ice cream.

Samples of all types of ice cream were taken and submitted fo bacteriological examination. Two samples were found to be not u to standard. Investigations were carried out and certain measur instituted which resulted in further samples proving satisfactor

SLAUGHTERHOUSE ACT, 1958 -

The district is served by one slaughterhouse owned and operat by Mr. N.V. Gagen of Gorefield. No difficulty was experienced i the inspection of all animals slaughtered for human consumption.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES - MEAT INSPECTION -

All the animals killed for human consumption in the slaughter at Gorefield are inspected. The carcases so inspected are stamp in accordance with the meat inspection regulations. It has agai been found impracticable for the inspector to be present at the dressing of all carcases but the inspection was carried out as s practicable. The income from inspection fees up to the end of t year was £60. 19. 3d. There are fixed days for slaughtering and animals sent in for emergency slaughter are notified to this offi immediately for inspection. An increased amount of co-operatio now exists between this department and the Animal Health Divisio of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960.-

A site licence for a single caravan was issued in respect of one caravan. There is a permanent residential site in the area and a satisfactory standard was maintained during the year. There was no further move in the question of providing a jointly operated site with the Wisbech Borough to accommodate seasonal van dwellers.

RODENT CONTROL -

Under existing arrangements a part time operator deals regularly with Council property including sewage plants. The whole length of the Wisbech Canal to be used for refuse disposal is constantly treated by this same operator. There were no heavy infestations reported during the year.

Advice and instructions were given to the public by the department necessitated either from direct complaint or if found during routine inspections of property.

PETROLEUM ACTS -

One new petroleum tank was installed in the district during the year and the necessary inspections carried out prior to the tank installation.

WATER SUPPLY -

This service is provided by the Wisbech and District Water Board, monthly summaries of bacteriological and chemical examinations are sent through to this department by the Board's Chemist, Mr. Collins, who is of great help to the department in dealing with any queries we have on water supply and other associated matters. The results have been of a very high standard and there was no contamination calling for special action by this department. A short table of examination results are set out below -

	Samples submitted	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory.
Bacteriological	397	396	1
Chemical	64	64	Nil

In addition bacteriological samples taken by this department proved to be satisfactory.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1964 -

The above Act came into force during the year, preparatory work was carried out by this department and 35 premises sent in forms for registration purposes.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

1964

1.1.64 to 31.12.64.	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Hor
Number Killed:	161	69	-	322	577	
Number Inspected:	161	69	-	322	577	
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:						
Whole carcases condemned:	2	1	-	-	4	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned:	11	18	-	26	12	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticerci:	6.8	26.0	-	8.0	2.0	
Tuberculosis only:						
Whole carcases condemned:	-	-	-	-	-	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned:	-	-	-	-	-	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis:	-	-	-	-	-	
Cysticercosis:						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned:	-	-	-	-	-	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration:	-	-	-	-	-	
Generalised and totally condemned:	-	-	-	-	-	

FACTORIES ACT, 1947 and 1948.

Part 1 of the Act.

. INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

remises (1)	M/o line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Inspect ions. (4)	Number of Written Notices. (5)	Occ. Prs.ctd. (6)	M/c line No. (7)
i) Factories in which Sects.1,2, 3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorites:	1	30	48	-	-	1
i) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority:	2	27	33	-	-	2
i) Other premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding Out-workers Premises):	3	-	-	-	-	3
Total	-	57	81	-	-	-

. No defects were discovered during the year.